

BOOK REVIEWS



IN CHARGE OF
M. E. CAMERON

THE HISTORY OF NURSING

SOME months ago, and before the book was ready for sale, "The History of Nursing" was reviewed in the pages of this magazine, from the printer's proof. The completed book with all its finishing touches, illustrations, etc., has since then appeared in the market and we are keenly interested in its reception by the profession and the public. Miss Dock and Miss Nutting are to be congratulated. The book is the consummation of two years of uninterrupted toil on the part of one of the collaborators, part of the time being spent abroad, ransacking archives and libraries, and digging up old records for material, while the other worker has for fifteen years devoted every moment of her leisure time to collecting, arranging, and verifying data. They have reason to be proud of the result of their labors. The book is given with a promise that contains a threat; if these volumes are well received the work is to be continued by a history of modern nursing. It is a common fault with nurses, that the rank and file look to a few active spirits, to carry on the enterprise of the profession. This particular piece of enterprise must be supported by the appreciation and coöperation of every member of the nursing profession to ensure its success. Far more important than the financial success of the book, is that it should be incorporated into the educating influences, brought to bear upon the character of every nurse who leaves her Alma Mater, strengthened and fully equipped, with the training that is to make her the perfectly turned-out article that the standards of the times require. She will be lacking in some respect of her development if she does not make herself acquainted with the "History of Nursing." We advise that it be read, marked, learned and inwardly digested. The words of the authors' preface convey in a way that cannot be improved upon what the book ought to be to the nurse: "The modern nurse, keenly interested as she is in the present and the future of her profession, knows little of its past. She loses both the inspiration which arises from cherished tradition, and the perspective which shows the relation of one progressive

movement to others. Only in the light of history can she clearly see how closely her own calling is linked with the general conditions of education and of liberty that obtain—as they rise, she rises, and as they sink she falls.”

A TEXT-BOOK OF MINOR SURGERY. By Edward Milton Foote, A.M., M.D., Instructor in Surgery, College of Physicians, Columbia University; Lecturer on Surgery, New York Polyclinic Medical School; Visiting Surgeon, New York City Hospital; Visiting Surgeon, St. Joseph's Hospital; Consulting Surgeon, Randall's Island Hospitals and Schools; formerly Chief Surgeon at the Vanderbilt Clinic. Illustrated by Four Hundred and Seven Engravings from Original Drawings and Photographs. D. Appleton & Company, New York and London.

DR. FOOTE dedicates his book to his patients, to “The Man at the Point of the Knife, for his grit and patience and especially for his willingness to be photographed that others may profit by his misfortune.” This is the unique feature of the book—the demonstration by means of photograph and drawing of every phase of minor surgery; truly the man at the point of the knife is prominent; he confronts us from every page of the book or very nearly, and well has he earned the compliment indicated in the dedication.

Dr. Foote takes his minor surgery seriously, and if any one needs conversion to Dr. Foote's ideas we recommend the reading of the book for the cure of this particular unbelief. From every page one has hints and reminders of the need of care for every scratch, bump or bruise. Those who are ignorant learn the grave possibilities of infections, secondary lesions, deformities, loss of sense and motion attending or resulting from the neglect or mis-care of minor injuries.

The three last chapters of the book are given to those subjects usually allied to minor surgery, operative technique, the roller bandage, and surgical dressings.



THE Consumptives' Hospital of Boston has recently secured a beautiful site on the Conness estate in Mattapan, where a new hospital will some time be erected. In the meantime the Day Camp for tuberculosis patients has been removed there and the grounds made sanitary with proper drainage. This camp has been successfully carried on for two seasons on Parker Hill.